

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 PC-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02
MCT-01 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-13 HA-05 CA-01 SCS-06
USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /100 W
-----003365 071042Z /10

R 070855Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7265
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 2980

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN
SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY SITUATION IN JAKARTA AND JOGJAKARTA

REF: (A) JAKARTA 2854 (DTG 030918Z MAR 78)
(B) SURABAYA 0096 (DTG 070120Z MAR 78)

1. SUMMARY. SECURITY FORCES ARE CONTINUING TO CONDUCT SMALL SCALE OPERATIONS AT JAKARTA UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES, AIMED AT PREEMPTING POSSIBLE DISSIDENT ACTIVITY. STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA HAVE ANNOUNCED A STUDENT "STRIKE" TO LAST THROUGH THE MPR SESSION, WHICH HAS EFFECTIVELY CLOSED DOWN THE UNIVERSITY. JOGJAKARTA'S GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY RESUMED NEAR-NORMAL ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES YESTERDAY, BUT UNIVERSITY SOURCES REPORT THAT
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THE SITUATION THERE IS STILL SOMEWHAT DICEY. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY FORCES CONTINUED A SERIES OF INCURSIONS ONTO THE CAMPUSES OF SEVERAL OF JAKARTA'S MAJOR UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS, APPARENTLY AIMED AT REMOVING ANTI-GOVERNMENT BANNERS AND HARRASSING AND INTIMIDATING STUDENTS WHO POTENTIALLY MIGHT PLAN

DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES. SMALL UNITS OF TROOPS ENTERED THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA'S (UI) TWO CITY CAMPUSES ON MARCH 4 AND THE CAMPUS OF THE JAKARTA STATE TEACHERS' TRAINING INSTITUTE (IKIP) ON MARCH 6. IN THE FORMER CASE, AT THE DOWNTOWN UI CAMPUS, SEVERAL APPARENTLY OVERZEALOUS TROOPS BEGAN BEATING TWO STUDENTS, REPORTEDLY WITHOUT PROVOCATION, WHICH LED TO A BRIEF MELEE. AT LEAST FOUR STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED. IN THE IKIP INCIDENT, TROOPS ENTERED A CLASSROOM AND TORE DOWN SOME POSTERS BUT ARRESTED NO ONE. BY ONE UNCONFIRMED ACCOUNT, THE TROOPS GRATUITOUSLY FIRED A HALF-DOZEN OR SO "WARNING" SHOTS WHILE WITHDRAWING FROM THE IKIP CAMPUS, WITHOUT RESULTING INJURY.

3. UI STUDENT LEADERS HAVE CALLED AN ACADEMIC "STRIKE" BEGINNING YESTERDAY AND LASTING UNTIL MARCH 26, CITING A STANDARD LITANY OF COMPLAINTS -- LACK OF JUSTICE, RAMPANT CORRUPTION IN "RULING CIRCLES," "THE CRUSHING OF DEMOCRACY," AND THE "JOKE OF AN ELECTION WITH ONLY ONE CANDIDATE" -- AS JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS "MORAL PROTEST" AGAINST THE MPR SESSION. IN ITS FIRST TWO DAYS, THE STRIKE HAS BEEN ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY OBSERVED BY THE UI STUDENT BODY AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AT THE SCHOOL ARE AT A VIRTUAL STANDSTILL.

4. IN JOGJAKARTA, GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY (GMU) REOPENED
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FOR NORMAL ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES YESTERDAY, BUT THE TWO LARGE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITIES REMAINED CLOSED. AN EMBASSY OFFICER ACCOMPANYING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEN ON A BRIEF VISIT TO JOGJAKARTA HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE GMU CAMPUS AND TALK WITH TWO MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY, A VISITING FOUNDATION-SPONSORED LECTURER AND A RESIDENT GERMAN EMBASSY AID OFFICER. ALL CONFIRMED THE EMBASSY'S VISUAL OBSERVATION THAT GMU WAS OPERATING NEARLY NORMALLY, WITHOUT THE VISIBLE PRESENCE OF ANY SECURITY FORCES (INDEED, IN TWO DAYS OF TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE JOGJAKARTA AREA, NO SECURITY TROOPS WERE SEEN EXCEPT NORMAL POLICE AND TRAFFIC CONTROL PERSONNEL). FIRST DAY'S ATTENDANCE AT SOCIAL SCIENCE LECTURES WAS RUNNING AT ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF REGISTERED STUDENTS, SLIGHTLY LESS THAN NORMAL. THERE IS NO STUDENT "STRIKE" NOR, BY THE ACCOUNT OF ONE OF THE FACULTY MEMBERS CLOSE TO STUDENT ACTIVISTS, ANY IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR ONE, THOUGH LATER USE OF THAT TACTIC IS UNDER STUDENT CONSIDERATION.

5. ALL SOURCES AGREED THAT THE CLASHES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND SECURITY FORCES ON FEBRUARY 25 AND 27 WERE SERIOUS, WITH AT LEAST A FEW STUDENTS SERIOUSLY INJURED. NO ONE

COULD CONFIRM ANY DEATHS RESULTING FROM THE CLASH, BUT TWO OF THE SOURCES OFFERED FIRST HAND ACCOUNTS OF INJURIES TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS WHICH THEY BELIEVED MIGHT WELL HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE FATAL. SEVERAL SECURITY TROOPS WERE ALSO INJURED. EVERYONE AGREED, S WELL, THAT STUDENTS WERE ACTIVELY BAITING THE TROOPS, ESPECIALLY ON MARCH 27, WHEN THE MORE SERIOUS CLASH OCCURRED, BUT THAT SECURITY TOOPS OVERREACTED TO STUDENT PROVOCATIONS AND RETALIATED IN AN OFTEN INDISCRIMINATE MANNER.

6. WHILE EVERYONE ALSO SAID THAT GMU STUDENTS REMAIN VERY UPSET AT THE ACTIONS OF THE SECURITY TROOPS, THE ONE SOURCE CLOSEST TO THE GMU STUDENTS SAID THEY ARE BITTER AS WELL OVER THE ACTIONS OF THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
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STUDENTS WHO SPEARHEADED THE TWO DEMONSTRATIONS, WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH OR APPROVAL FROM GMU STUDENT LEADERS. IN EFFECT, SAID THIS SOURCE, THE ISLAMIC STUDENTS HAD "BROUGHT THEIR PLAGUE DOWN ON THE HEADS" OF THE GMU STUDENTS. BECAUSE OF THAT, THE SOURCE CLAIMED, THE CHANCE OF ISLAMIC STUDENT-GMU COORDINATED ACTION IN THE DAYS AHEAD WAS VERY UNLIKELY.

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R 070855Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7266
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 2980

7. COMMENT: WHILE OUR SOURCES UNANIMOUSLY SAID THE SITUATION IN JOGJAKARTA REMAINS DICEY, THE IMMEDIATE TENSION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT DEFUSED. THE HOPSCOTCHING SPOTLIGHT, MEANWHILE, HAS SWUNG BACK TO JAKARTA, WHERE SECURITY FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN A RATHER AGGRESSIVE POSTURE. A PRESS SOURCE WHO WITNESSED THE MARCH 4 MELEE AT UI SAID THE SITUATION CAME VERY CLOSE TO GETTING OUT OF HAND AND EVOLVING INTO A MUCH MORE WIDESPREAD AND VIOLENT INCIDENT. GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE ALERT TO THAT POSSIBILITY AND TRYING TO PREVENT IT, BUT A CONTINUATION OF GOVERNMENT ON-CAMPUS PREEMPTIVE OPERAOCs IS A RISKY TACTIC.
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